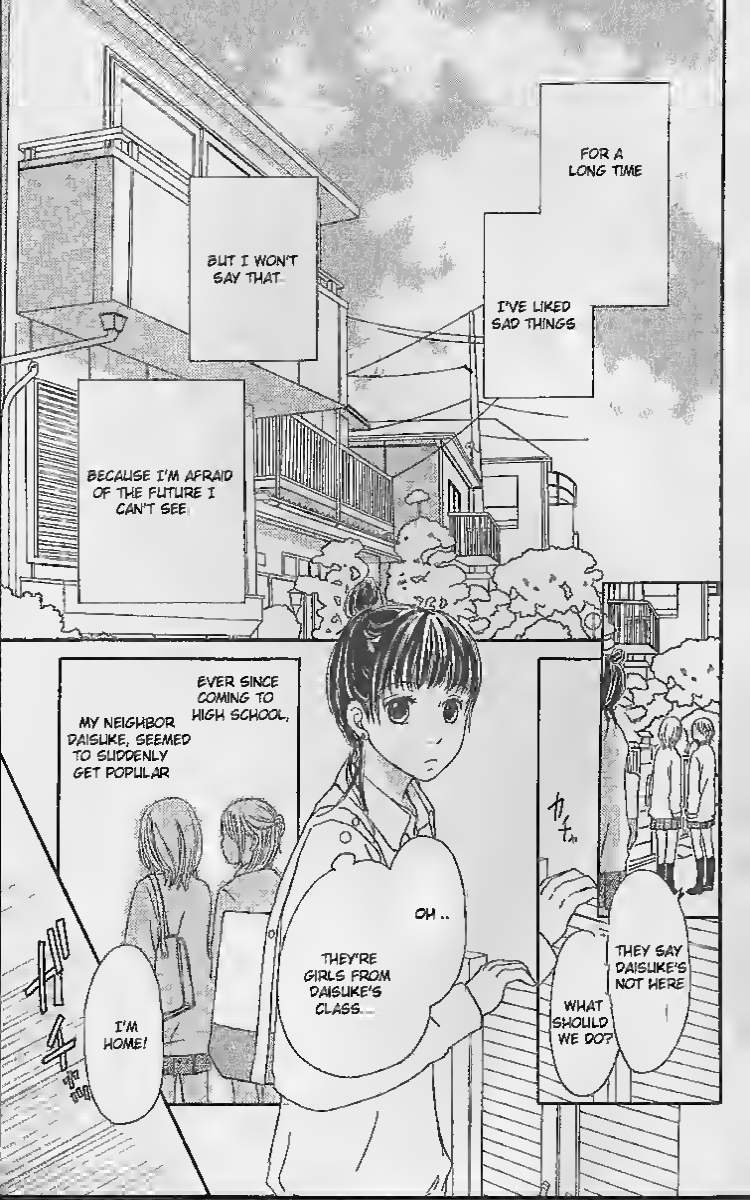
ひなたぼっこの部屋

A Willful Muse
TRANSLATOR: JULIE
PROOFREADER: FAIRYSONG
CLEANER: EVELYN
TYPESETTER: PERCH


FOR A LONG TIME
I'VE LIKED SAD THINGS
BUT I WON'T SAY THAT
BECAUSE I'M AFRAID OF THE FUTURE I CAN'T SEE
EVER SINCE COMING TO HIGH SCHOOL,
MY NEIGHBOR DAISUKE, SEEMED TO SUDDENLY GET POPULAR
I'M HOME!
OH ..
THEY'RE GIRLS FROM DAISUKE'S CLASS...
THEY SAY DAISUKE'S NOT HERE
WHAT SHOULD WE DO?

...
HE'S HERE, JUST LIKE I THOUGHT...
HEY DAISUKE!
I DIDN'T BUY THAT AFTERNOON NAP BLANKET FOR YOU!
GEEZ.
GIVE ME A BREAK WILL YOU?
...

SINCE YOUR FAMILY BUILT THIS HOUSE, 10 YEARS AGO,
THE SUNLIGHT DOESN'T BRIGHTEN MY ROOM AS MUCH.
SO YOU OWE ME THIS, RIGHT?
NICE EXCUSE --- SEEING THAT YOUR ROOM HAS ALWAYS FACED NORTH.
REALLY?
.. .. ;;
THERE WERE GIRLS IN FRONT OF YOUR HOUSE
GIRLS FROM YOUR CLASS, RIGHT?
WHA-?
ARE YOU JEALOUS?
YOU'RE ALREADY IN YOUR FIRST YEAR OF HIGH SCHOOL AND NO BOYS HAVE ASKED YOU OUT
POOR TOMO
ACCOMPANY THOSE GIRLS FOR A LITTLE WHILE?
THEN WHY DON'T YOU HURRY HOME
HEY.
SNOOO-OORE---

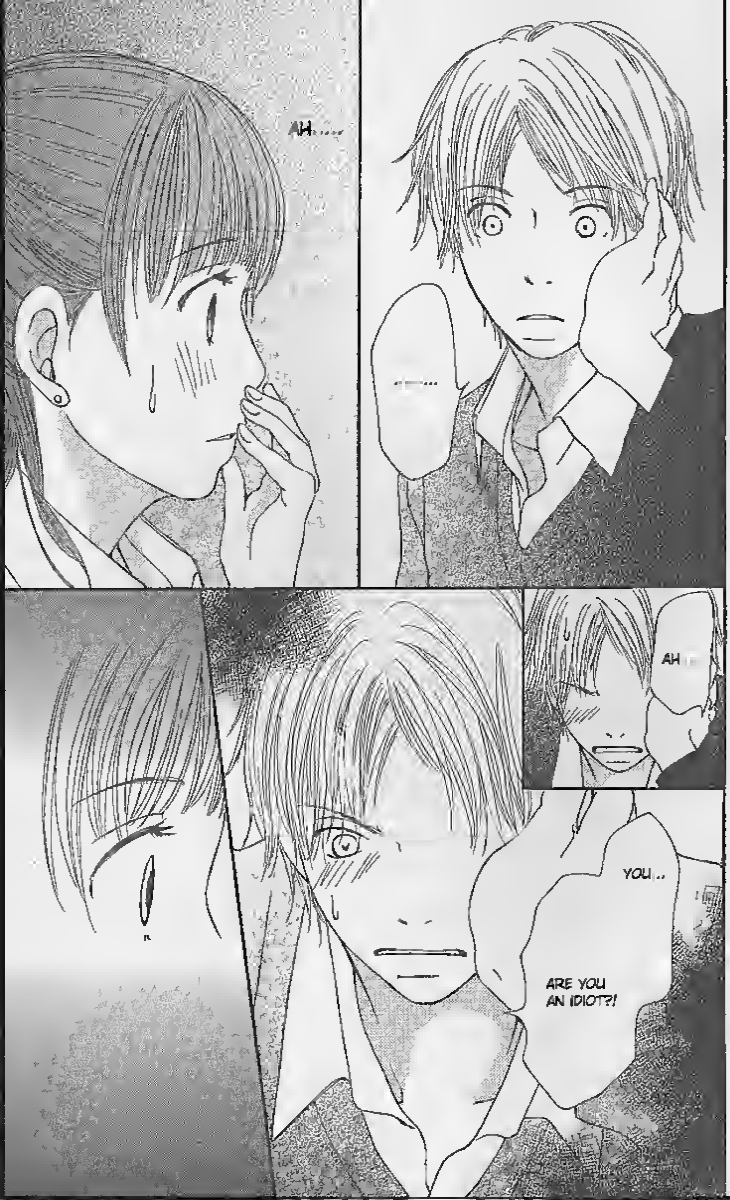
KID.
I'M A BIT RELIEVED
WHA-?!
WHAT DID YOU SAY?
BUT THEY ANNOY ME... EVEN AT SCHOOL...
AND IT'S TROUBLESOME.
EVEN THOUGH I ACT LIKE A BOY ON THE OUTSIDE
AND IT'S NOT QUITE LIKE I'M ACTING LIKE A GIRL
FROM A LONG TIME AGO,
ANY TIME SOMETHING HE DIDN'T LIKE HAPPENED, HE'D SNEAK IN AND
THIS PLACE HAD BEEN DAISUKE'S REFUGE
DAICHAN, IT'S BETTER IF YOU APOLOGIZE TO YOUR MAMA.
OKAY?
REST WHERE THE SUN SHONE.

AND IRRITATED
A LITTLE RELIEVED
MAKES ME
EVEN NOW, THAT UNCHANGING HABIT
I WONDER IF THEY WENT HOME..
わし
わし
..GIRL?
RATHER, GET A GRIP ON YOURSELF.
FIRST OF ALL THIS IS A GIRL'S ROOM.
わし
WHO KNOWS
WHAT'RE YOU DOING?!
IT IRRITATES ME,
BECAUSE YOU'RE TOO DEFENSE-LESS?
--OWWW!!
BECAUSE

EACH TIME MY FINGERS BRUSH YOU...
IF YOU UNDER-ESTIMATE ME TOO MUCH
I'M GOING TO ATTACK YOU.
WH-WHA-?
.....
CUT IT OUT!

IRRITATED
DO YOU REALLY WANT ME TO ATTACK YOU?
OKAY OKAY
WHY DON'T YOU THEN?
THAT'S WHY I SAID ATTACK ME...

カバッ


AH.....
AH...
YOU...
ARE YOU AN IDIOT?!

OH NO.
YOU'RE NOT GOING TO HAVE SOME DINNER FIRST?
OH MY! ARE YOU GOING HOME ALREADY?
←TOMO'S MOM
I JUST
DID SOMETHING THAT WILL MAKE ME
UNABLE TO SEE HIM AGAIN.....

HEEEY TOMO.
WHERE'S DAISUKE-KUN?
HM..
HM--
BUT HE ALWAYS COMES AROUND NOW TO BORROW YOUR DICTIONARY.
AND WE WERE SO LOOKING FORWARD TO MEETING HIM
RIGHT
....
AH!
DAISUKE-KUN.
WHY DIDN'T YOU COME OVER JUST NOW?!
HE'S PROBABLY DITCHING, HUH?
.....
TOMO, WE'RE GOING TO LEAVE YOU BEHIND.
OKAAAY.
MY BODY FEELS HEAVY.

HUH?
TOMO?
I DIDN'T WANT IT TO BECOME LIKE THIS
TOMO...
?
WHY WASN'T I ABLE TO STOP MYSELF?
THERE HAS NEVER BEEN A DAY THAT I DIDN'T SPEAK WITH DAISUKE...

WHAT CAN I DO
TO MAKE EVERYTHING LIKE BEFORE?
TOMO.
YOU...
UM, ABOUT YESTERDAY
DAISUKE...

...
YEAH.
HAHA!
YOU COULDN'T BE EMBARRASSED ABOUT SOMETHING LIKE THAT RIGHT?
KID?
DON'T DO SUCH DISGUSTING THINGS!!

IT FEELS SO HEATED
DISGUSTING.

GOOD EVENING TOMO.
OH MY? WHERE'S DAI-CHAN?
HE DIDN'T COME.
NOT EVEN TODAY?
BUT BEFORE, HARDLY THREE DAYS WOULD PASS BEFORE HE CAME OVER, RIGHT?
BUT ISN'T DAISUKE BUSY?
HE SEEMS QUITE POPULAR WITH THE LADIES.
I M SORRY THAT IT WAS DISGUSTING
I WONDER IF HE'LL KEEP GROWING APART FROM US.
HOW SAD.

RECENTLY, HE'S BEEN COMING HOME LATE.
THERE'S NO USE IN WAITING.
DAISUKE'S STILL NOT HOME
I KNOW
IT'S SOMETHING THAT WILL CHANGE SOME DAY.
I WANT TO KEEP US
Happy Birthday
CONNECTED
TOGETHER
AH!

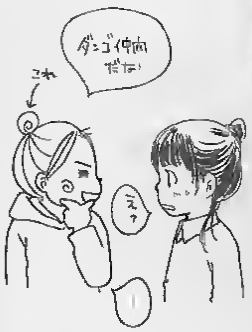
TODAY'S A SPECIAL DAY.
YOUR BIRTHDAY.
.....
WHAT IS IT?
DA-!
DAI-!!
.....
IT WON'T REACH.
..YEAH.
HERE.
JUST WAIT.
OH,
THEN I'LL BRING IT TO YOU

ピンポーン
ガチャ
HE DIDN'T SAY, "I DON'T WANT IT."
THANK GOODNESS
はい
HERE
THANKS.
WHAT IS THIS?
WHAT A HUGE BOX
OPEN IT.

100 SILVER GOODS THAT WILL MAKE YOU HAPPY
WORTH 500 YEN
WHAT IS THIS?
SOMETHING THAT WILL TAKE AWAY THE REDNESS CAUSED AFTER A HOT BATH
HEH
THERE'S NO HELPING YOU!
EVERY YEAR IT'S ALWAYS SOMETHING USELESS AND STUPID... HEHE
THANK YOU

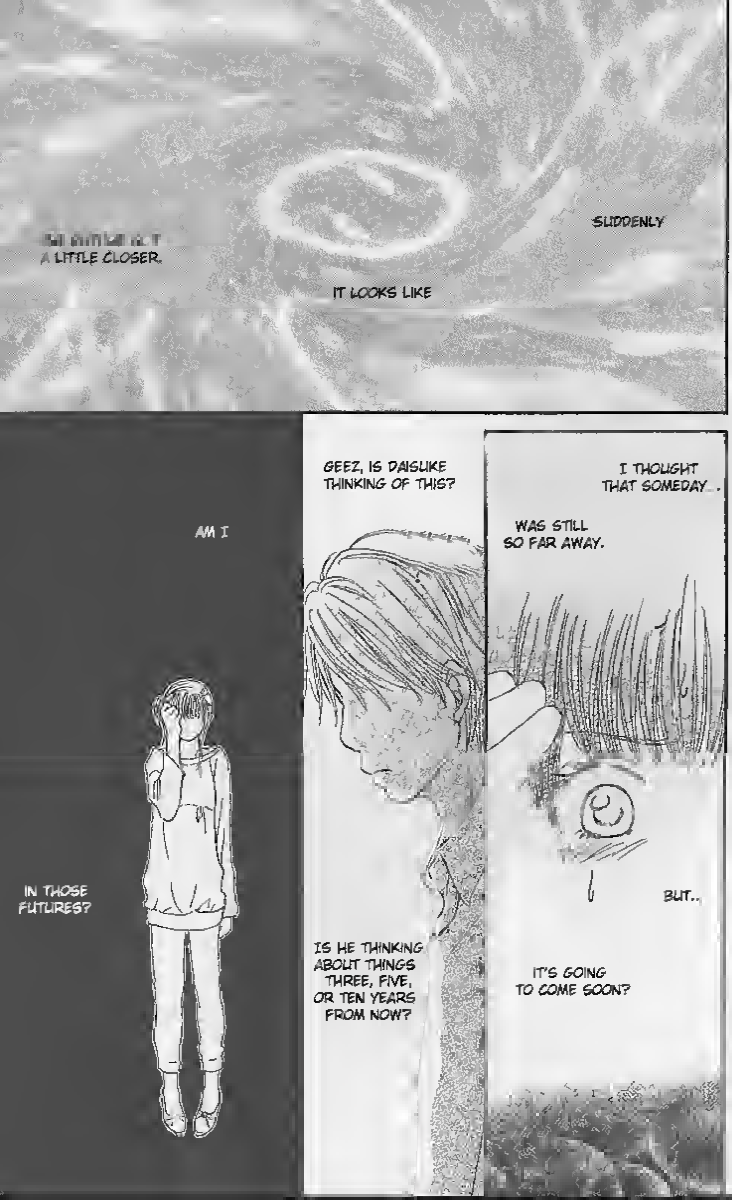
ダンゴ。

トモは ダンゴ少ないなぁ。



ちなみに トモは 友世(ともよ)という名前です。
覚えてなかったけど。

...HUH?
WHEN I GET OUT OF HIGH SCHOOL I'M GOING TO LIVE BY MYSELF, RIGHT?
WELL, I USE IT FOR FUN, TOO
NOPE
SAVINGS.
AH?
UM...
IT SEEMS LIKE...
I HAVEN'T THOUGHT ABOUT IT YET...
SAY THEY'RE GOING TO STAY, BUT
MOST OF THE PEOPLE IN OUR CLASS
I'M GOING
TO LEAVE FOR COLLEGE...
HOW ABOUT YOU?


A LITTLE CLOSER.
IT LOOKS LIKE
SUDDENLY
AM I
IN THOSE FUTURES?
GEEZ, IS DAISUKE THINKING OF THIS?
IS HE THINKING ABOUT THINGS THREE, FIVE, OR TEN YEARS FROM NOW?
I THOUGHT THAT SOMEDAY...
WAS STILL SO FAR AWAY.
BUT..
IT'S GOING TO COME SOON?

RIGHT NOW
WILL THE THINGS BEFORE MY EYES
BECOME THINGS THAT HAPPENED
BEFORE ?
TOMO?
キーン
.....
TOMO?

.....
RELEASE
SORRY.
IT'S NOTHING
...
YOUR BIRTHDAY'S NEXT WEEK,
ISN'T IT?
...WHAT DO YOU WANT?
SINCE I'M WORKING,
IT'S ALRIGHT IF IT'S A LITTLE EXPENSIVE...
...IS ANYTHING OKAY?
HM?
WELL... YEAH?

THEN...
HOW 'BOUT A DATE?
.....WHAT?
IS IT BAD IF I ASK FOR JUST ONE?
IN ALL MY LIFE,
I'VE NEVER DONE ANYTHING LIKE THAT.
WHEN WE GET OLD WE MIGHT LAUGH ABOUT IT.

MAYBE THAT'S GOOD...
...I GUESS SO.

HEY, TOMO?!
MESSING IT UP SO MUCH LIKE THIS!!
WHAT. IS. THIS?!
.....

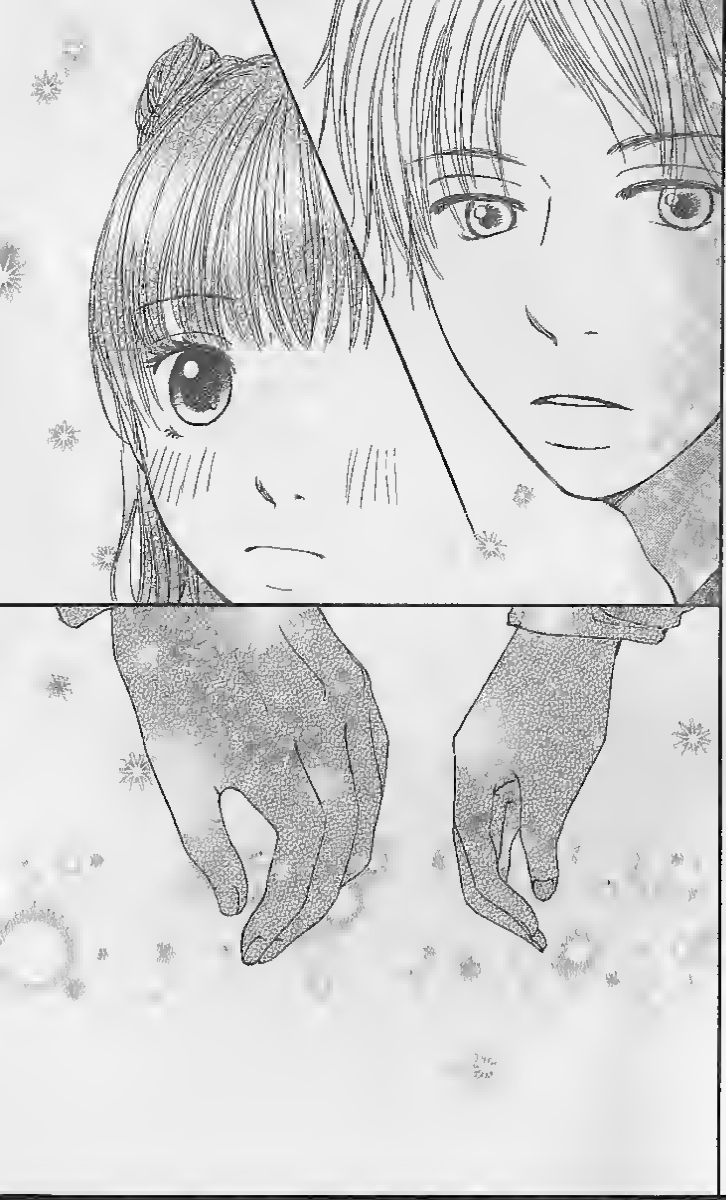
THAT'S RIGHT.
TODAY IS THE DAY OF MY DATE WITH DAISUKE.
LOOK THE OTHER WAY!!
WHEN...
WHEN I RETURN I'LL PROPERLY CLEAN EVERYTHING UP, SO...

THE DAY OF MY
ONCE-ONLY DATE
.....
ゴキ
ゴキ
ゴキ
ゴキ
ゴキ
ゴキ
ゴキ
YOU DON'T SEEM VERY CALM
AHH!!
SEARCH SEARCH
FIX FIX
SEARCH SEARCH SEARCH
.....

BECAUSE...
IT-
IT MAKES IT LIKE A DATE
BESIDES, WHY DO YOU MAKE IT SO YOU'LL HAVE TO WAIT?
THERE'S NO POINT IN IT
OH, YOU'RE LATE!!
GEEZ!
YOU'RE THE ONE'S WHO'S EARLY!
I ARRIVED RIGHT ON TIME!!
UM...
THE AQUARIUM OR THE MOVIE THEATRE
SO? WHERE DO YOU WANT TO GO?
THAT'S REALLY STEREO-TYPICAL..
'KAY.
BE-
BECAUSE THIS DATE IS A GOOD OPPORTUNITY, I THOUGHT I SHOULD TREAT IT LIKE ONE!
AN-
AND IT'S A ONE TIME THING AFTER ALL
IT..IT DOESN'T REALLY MATTER TO ME WHERE WE GO
..LET'S GO TO WHERE YOU WANT TO

'KAY, THEN BETWEEN THE AQUARIUM AND THE MOVIE THEATRE...
ARE YOU FINE WITH THAT?
IT'S LIKE A DATE RIGHT?
LIKE FOR A REAL DATE,
SHOULD WE HOLD HANDS?
'KAY THEN
SHALL WE MAKE IT THE AQUARIUM?
HAHA!
JUST KIDDING

...SHALL WE HOLD HANDS?
ARE WE NOT GOING TO HOLD THEM
OUR HANDS?
LIKE FOR A REAL DATE.



IT'S HOT.

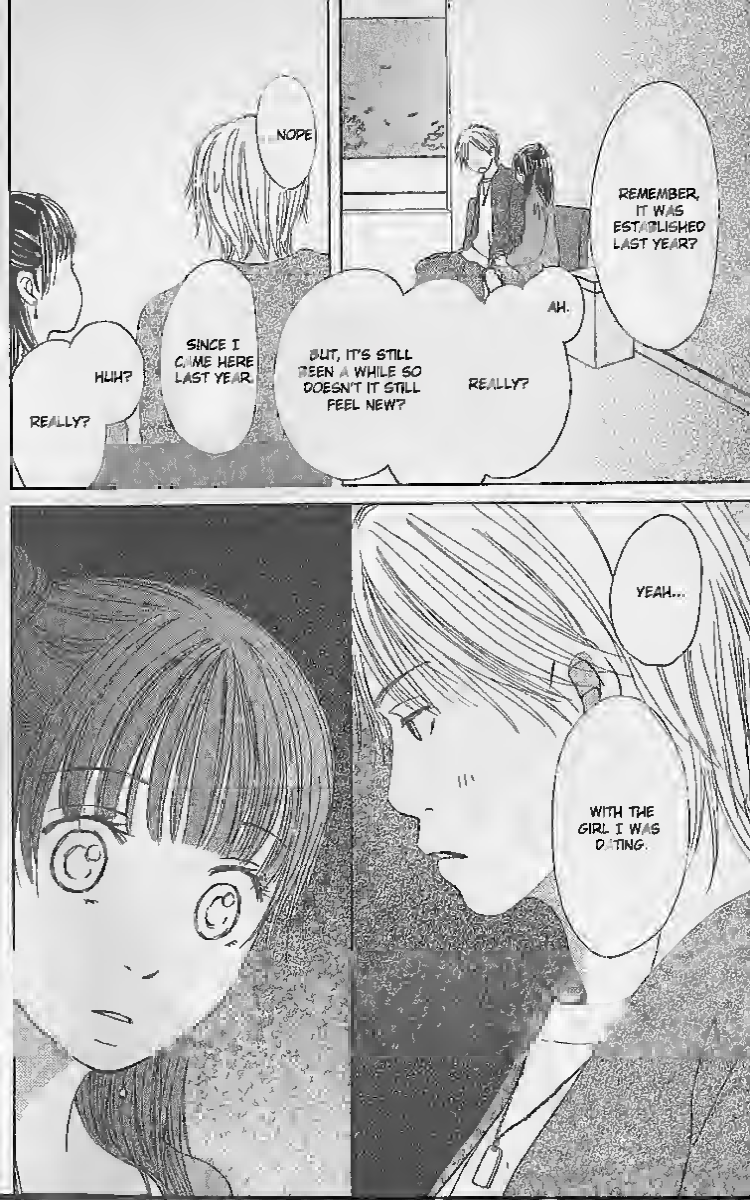
HEY
DAISUKE'S PALM
IS ALSO HOT.
DOESN'T THIS
MAKE YOU HAPPY?

DOESN'T THIS
MAKE DAISUKE
HAPPY TOO ...?

SHALL WE GO WATCH THE SEA LION SHOW NEXT?
HUH?
OH.
YEAH
AFTER ALL, THE NEXT SHOW-TIME IS SOON

ARE YOU ALRIGHT? ARE YOU TIRED?
A...A LITTLE.
OVERLY STRESSING OUT.
DO YOU WANT TO REST A LITTLE?
WHAT'RE YOU DOING, YOU.
DIZZY
DIZZY
I'M SORRY
O-
OKAY.
COME,
SIT OVER THERE.
I'M GOING TO GO BUY YOU SOMETHING COLD TO DRINK.
THERE'S ONE IN THE AFTERNOON,
SO LET'S GO TO THAT ONE.
AH,
BUT WHAT ABOUT THE SHOW...?
ISN'T HE REALLY NICE...?
SOMEHOW.
SOME
SOMEHOW

WOULD YOU BE THIS KIND
TO YOUR GIRLFRIEND
DAISUKE?
HEY.
YOU
TEA IS BETTER RIGHT?
AHN, AHN.
TH-
THANK YOU!
WAS THIS PLACE ALWAYS THIS BIG? I HAVEN'T BEEN HERE SINCE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL.


REMEMBER, IT WAS ESTABLISHED LAST YEAR?
AH.
REALLY?
NOPE
SINCE I CAME HERE LAST YEAR.
BUT, IT'S STILL BEEN A WHILE SO DOESN'T IT STILL FEEL NEW?
HUH?
REALLY?
YEAH...
WITH THE GIRL I WAS DATING.

I DIDN'T KNOW.
HM? YEAH...
A LITTLE IN MY THIRD YEAR OF MIDDLE SCHOOL.
WE BROKE UP QUICKLY THOUGH.
.....
REALLY?
WOW...
SO THERE WAS A GIRL WHO YOU WENT OUT WITH?
NOPE.
YOU'RE WRONG BUT...
COME ON ENOUGH OF THAT.
EVEN THOUGH I WAS SO CLOSE
I DIDN'T KNOW.
OH...
SO?
WHO WAS IT?
AH,
WAS IT CLASS TWO'S ICHIKAWA-SAN?
I DIDN'T KNOW AT ALL.

THERE REALLY WAS
A GIRL HE WAS KIND TO.
NOT LIKE THIS JOKE OF A DATE.
WILL THE DAISUKE I DON'T KNOW...
CONTINUE TO GROW?
FROM NOW ON

SHALL WE GO SOON?
COME ON
...TOMO?
I KNOW THAT IT'S JUST MY CHILDISH SELFISHNESS
BUT,
IF I THINK ABOUT THE HAND
THAT HELD ANOTHER'S LAST YEAR,

HEEY TOMO?
ぶんっ
.....
"THE HAND THAT WILL PROBABLY HOLD ANOTHER'S."
NEXT TIME,
I CAN'T STAND IT.
WHAT'S BUGGING YOU TODAY?
I CAME HERE AND AM DOING ALL THIS, FOR YOUR PRESENT.

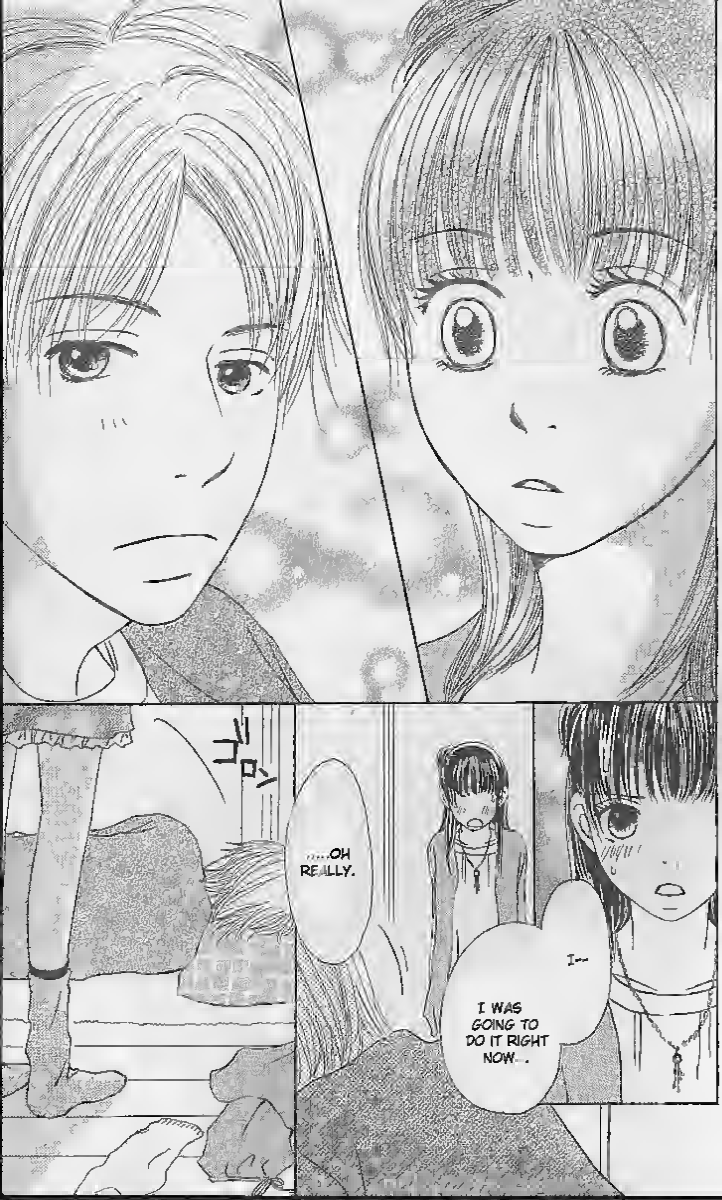
HEY.
TOMO?
すたすた
WHERE ARE YOU ..
IT'S ENOUGH
すくっ
..HUH?
LET'S JUST STOP IT
THIS DATE.
WHAT?
WHAT IS IT? AND I WENT THROUGH ALL THIS.
HEY!
ARE YOU LEAVING?
THIS IS A ONE TIME ONLY DATE YOU KNOW!!

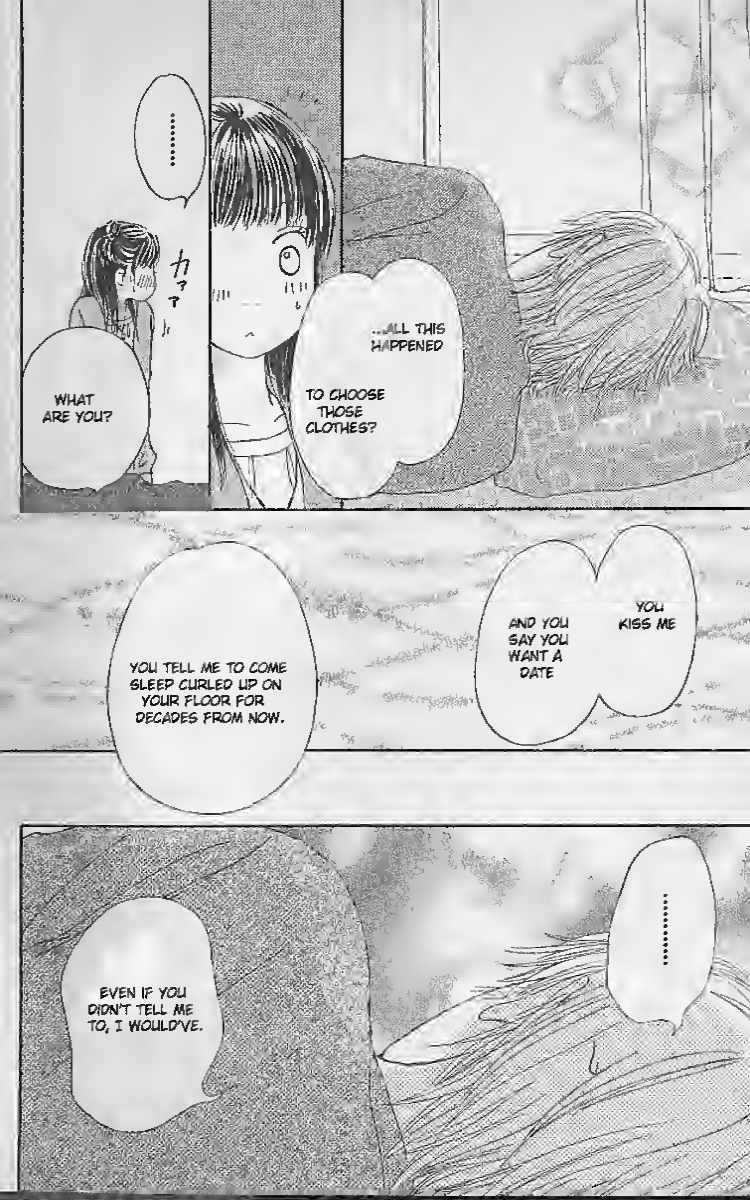
I WANT.
MORE THAN A ONE-TIME DATE,
OR HOLDING HANDS.
I WANT DECADES MORE
OF DAISUKE SLEEPING CURLED UP IN MY ROOM

OR NOT.
WELL THEN!
THANKS FOR TODAY!

I'M HOME!
WHAT?
I'M GOING TO CLEAN IT NOW.
GEEZ! YOU...
I TOLD YOU TO CLEAN YOUR ROOM!
SURE. SURE.
I'M GOING TO GO SHOPPING SO TAKE CARE OF THE REST, OKAY?
YOU WILL ALWAYS BE THERE.
AT THE VERY LEAST,
IN MY UNFORESEEABLE FUTURE
DAISUKE,
I STILL CAN'T SEE
ANYTHING OF WHAT'S IN THE FUTURE.
BUT, YOU'RE DEFINITELY THERE.

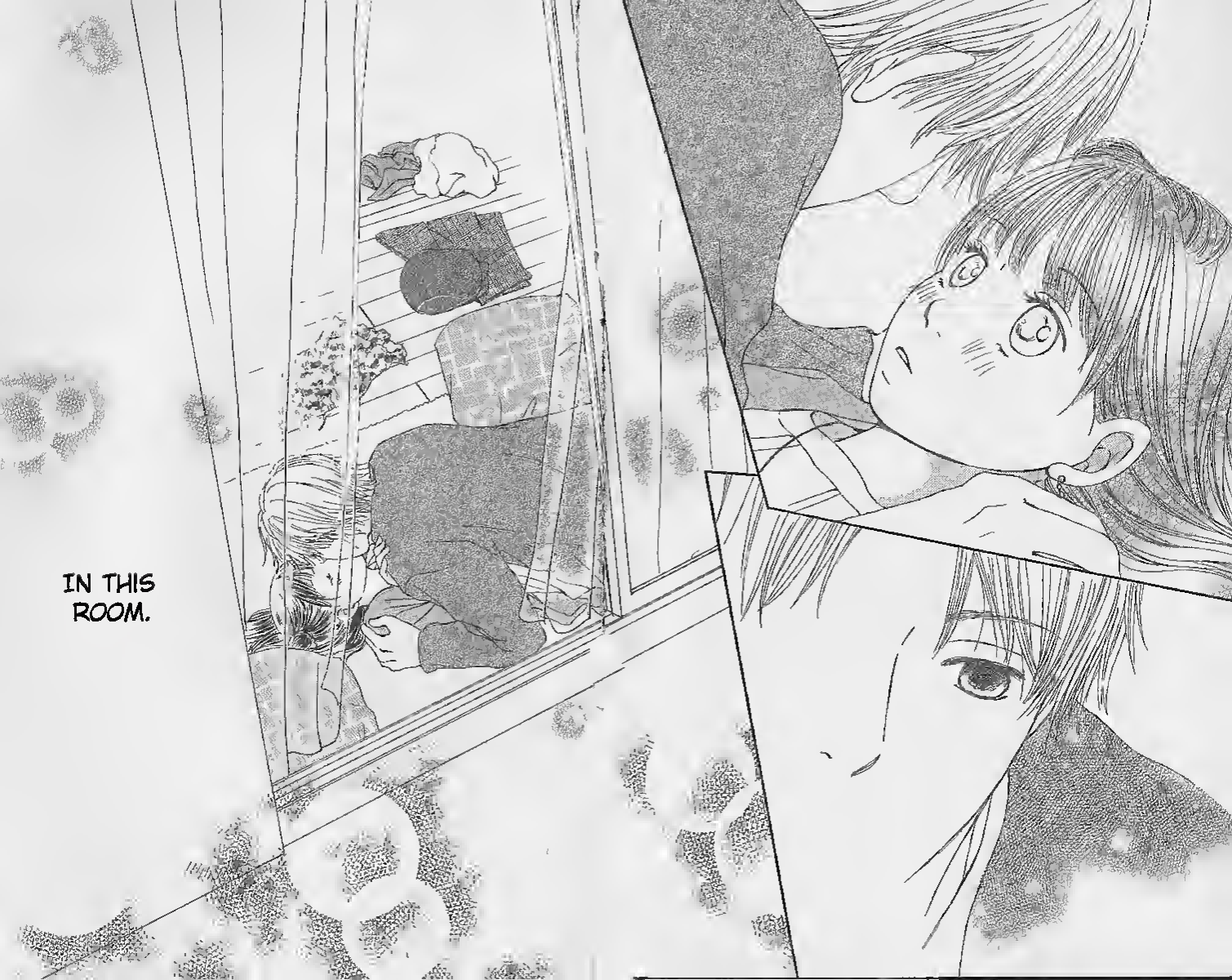
WHAT A DIRTY ROOM
IF YOU WANT ME TO SLEEP CURLED UP HERE,
AT LEAST MAKE A LITTLE SPACE


I--
I WAS GOING TO DO IT RIGHT NOW..
....OH REALLY.


.....
WHAT ARE YOU?
...ALL THIS HAPPENED TO CHOOSE THOSE CLOTHES?
YOU KISS ME AND YOU SAY YOU WANT A DATE
YOU TELL ME TO COME SLEEP CURLED UP ON YOUR FLOOR FOR DECADES FROM NOW.
.....
EVEN IF YOU DIDN'T TELL ME TO, I WOULD'VE.

YOU KNOW WHAT..
DA-
DAISUKE?
TODAY WAS...
ARE YOU GOING TO ATTACK ME?

GRAB!
FLIP!
IDIOT
DID YOU THINK I'D LET YOU DO THE SAME THING TWICE?
UM WHAT HAPPENED?


IN THIS ROOM.

ALL THIS TIME I KNEW
WE'D HAVE THE SAME FUTURE.
HEY!
FINAL FANDY
Betsucomu
THIS ISN'T YOUR ROOM, OKAY?!
DON'T BRING YOUR MANGA AND PLAYSTATION OVER!!
AND DON'T IGNORE ME!
OKAY, OKAY
DAI-CHAN, WHAT DO YOU WANT TO EAT TONIGHT?
CURRY!
MOM TOO!!

〈ひなたぼっこの部屋〉＊おわり＊Betsucomi 2004年4月号に掲載

A Willful Muse

Thank you for reading our release!

ADD TRANSLATION: FOXGHOST & FIRESTARRYL
TRANSLATOR: JULIE
PROOFREADER: FAIRYSONG
CLEANER: EVELYN
TYPESETTER: PERCH

AS ALWAYS PLEASE SUPPORT THE MANGAKA BY PURCHASING HER WORKS WHENTHEY BECOME AVAILABLE IN YOUR AREA!

FEEL FREE TO COME VISIT US AT OUR "SITE" OR FORUM!
HTTP://AWILLFULMUSE.MYFASTFORUM.ORG/
HTTP://COMMUNITY.LIVEJOURNAL.COM/AWILLFULMUSE/

APPLE-CHEEK LOVE

RINGO HOPPE NO KOI

Giving You the Courage to Go One Step Further!

TAMAKI, who's quick to BLUSH, gathers her COURAGE and takes a JOB at
the PLACE where the BOY she LIKED in MIDDLE SCHOOL is working ♥ At least THAT WAS THE PLAN, but...!?

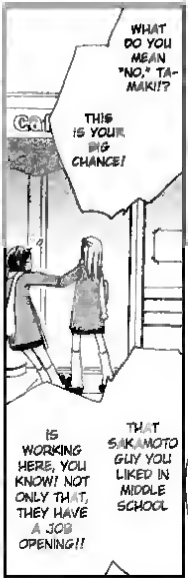
Maki Usami

USAMI, Maki

Happy♥Filling Short Story 30 pages

Usamin's new FC „Orange Kiss" is now on sale due to popular demand!! Be sure to also check out her previously published FCs „Sakura Rhythm" "Caramel Milk Tea" and "Kanon"! ♥

If your bookstore is sold out then see page 311 for an ordering form!


WHAT DO YOU MEAN "NO," TA-MAKI!?
THIS IS YOUR BIG CHANCE!
THAT SAKAMOTO GUY YOU LIKED IN MIDDLE SCHOOL
IS WORKING HERE, YOU KNOW!! NOT ONLY THAT, THEY HAVE A JOB OPENING!!

It's been one year since then.

Shoujo Magic

YOU'RE THE ONE WHO'S ALWAYS SAYING IT, TAMAKI
THAT YOU'RE GOING TO STOP HANDLING YOUR CRUSHES LIKE THAT!
UH
She means how my face turns red,
And I just look down without doing anything.
I hate myself when I'm like that
O-OKAY
I'LL GIVE IT A SHOT!
YES! WELL SAID!!
And thus, I, Tamaki Matsushita ...
PAT PAT
Our Quiet Tsuchi-chan.
That kinda hurts, Aki-chan.

CRASH
came to work part-time at this café...
MA ~~~ TSU ~~~ SHI ~~~ TA ~~~
UH-OH
.....
As their serial blunderer.
S-Sorry, Hasegawa san
I'll clean up here
You go get a new glass
B-But ...
DO IT NOW.

Trains the newbies
SHOULDN'T SHE BE TOO SCARED TO MAKE MISTAKES WITH HASEGAWA-KUN TRAINING HER?
HASE-GAWA-KUN IS KIND OF INTENSE
CLACK CLACK
I MEAN, EVEN WE'RE SCARED OF HIM
But we keep working anyway
SOOSH
YE-
YES, SIR!
GYAAAAAAH!
WUH-OH!
LOOKS THAT WAY
THAT NEW GIRL TAMAKI-CHAN?
SHE BREAK SOMETHING AGAIN?
FEBRUARY SCHEDULE
Looks like I won't meet the target, Sakamoto-kun, on the battlefield this month —
IN FACT ALL OF HIS DAYS ARE X-ED OUT DON'T TELL ME HE
OPEN
AH, BOSS
IS THIS SAKAMOTO-KUN GUY —
GAH!
IT'S HASE GAWA-SAN!!
SAKA-MOTO?

HEAVE
YOU KNOW HIM?
IS THAT HOW IT IS ..... CRUSHED
BLUSH
NO-
WE WERE IN THE SAME CLASS
IN MIDDLE SCHOOL
HE QUIT .....!?
SAKAMOTO QUIT
RIGHT BEFORE YOU WERE HIRED.
DOOOOO!
HMM .....
RED
SAME CLASS, HUH?
BLUSH
BLUSH
BLUSH
BLUSH
BLUSH

BACK IN MIDDLE SCHOOL,

IT WAS THE SAME THING.

I'm genetically predisposed to blushing easily, so
everyone would know what I was thinking and tease me,
and there was nothing I could do about it.
HUH?
I THOUGHT YOU WERE GONNA QUIT.
WELL, I WON'T.
.....

Shoujo Magic

THE REAL REASON I TOOK THIS JOB WAS BECAUSE
I HATED HOW I ALWAYS GAVE UP ON EVERY-THING SO EASILY.
THAT'S WHY I'M NOT GIVING UP THIS TIME.

Shoujo Magic

CLACK
SON OF A- YOU DID THESE!?
YOU TOTALLY DON'T SUCK!!
GLARE
DON'T GIMME THAT LOOK.
I'M COMPLIMENTING YOU.
I'M JUST NOT TOO GOOD AT IT.
TALKIN' ALL SOFT AND FLOWERY JUST AIN'T MY THING.
AH, SCREW IT.
...

God damn it, I'll just cover it with a ribbon
CRUMPLE
CRUMPLE
Shut the hell up.
...YOU TOTALLY SUCK.
CRUMPLE
CRUMPLE
CRUMPLE
RIP
OPEN
BOSS
HOW'S IT GOING?
DONE YET?
OH,
YOU'RE QUITE TALENTED HASEGAWA-KUN
BY THE WAY, TAMAKI-CHAN...
This is mine
ACTUALLY
IT SEEMS A CUSTOMER PHONED IN A COMPLAINT YESTERDAY
HUH?
HE HAD APPARENTLY PLACE AN ORDER FOR A CAKE IN THE EVENING
WERE YOU THE ONE WHO HANDLED THAT CUSTOMER?
NO, I DON'T HANDLE TAKING ORDERS.

I ASKED THE OTHER GIRLS, BUT THEY SAY THEY KNOW NOTHING ABOUT IT.
ARE YOU SURE YOU DON'T REMEMBER ANYTHING?
I DIDN'T WANT IT TO HAVE TO COME TO THIS, BUT
YOU'VE BEEN MAKING QUITE A FEW MISTAKES ON THE JOB.
THAT, I'LL ADMIT TO...
BUT .....
I WAS HERE YESTER-DAY, TOO, Y'KNOW.

I KNOW, BUT
IT COULDN'T HAVE BEEN YOU WHO—
HUH?
DID ANYONE ASK THE CUSTO-MER FOR DETAILS?
IT DOESN'T SOUND LIKE YOU'RE THE ONE WHO TOOK THE CALL, BOSS, BUT
GULP
I-I'LL CHECK ON THAT.
DO YOU KNOW IF THE ONE WHO SCREWED UP WAS A GUY OR A GIRL?
OH!
ONE MORE THING, BOSS.
WE'LL DISCUSS THIS LATER.

THE ONE WHO DID THESE NICE ONES
WAS MATSU-SHITA-SAN!
AH
I-
I SEE
THEN PLEASE CONTINUE, TAMAKI-CHAN.
SHUT...
.....
THANK YOU.

BUT YOU DO GOTTA BE MORE CAREFUL
'CAUSE I WON'T ALWAYS KNOW WHEN YOU'RE BEING SUSPECTED OF SOMETHING.
HMM
WHAT FOR
HE WAS JUST PISSING ME OFF
SOME HOW,
I'M STARTING TO FEEL LIKE
HE'S A SCARY GUY, BUT
HE'S NOT SUCH A BAD GUY
I'LL-
I'LL DO MY BEST!
AND, HIS WORDS ARE PRETTY INTENSE BUT

WHO WOULD PAY THAT KINDA MONEY FOR THESE?
You sure they're not 300 per yen?
FOR THESE SPECIAL CHOCO-LATES!!
300 YEN EACH!!
They look so good!
WOULD
SOME-ONE
WOW!
I'D BE SO HAPPY TO RECIEVE ONE OF THESE
DON'T YOU THINK THEY'RE NICE?
I'll be sure to wrap them extra cute!
THE BOSS SAID HE WANTS YOU TO WRAP THESE LATER.
WERE..
AH.
LOOK YOU'VE GOT A CUS-TOMER.
WELCOME TO THE STORE!
HI, CAN SOME-ONE HELP ME?
BESIDES, IT AIN'T LIKE YOU'VE EVEN GOT A BOYFRIEND, DO YOU?
Quit teasing me!
Ah..
Oh, yeah
AREN'T GIRLS SUPPOSED TO BE THE ONES GIVING?

Note. In Japan on February 14th, girls exclusively give gifts to boys
Exactly one month later, on what's called "White Day," the boys then reciprocate.

HOW CAN I HELP YOU, SI-
HEY!
I DIDN'T THINK THEY'D HIRED SOMEONE NEW ALREADY.
AREN'T YOU FROM MY MIDDLE SCHOOL? MATSU MOTO-SAN?
IT'S .....
IT'S .....
IT'S SAKAMO TO-KUN!!
WOW, IT'S BEEN SUCH A LONG TIME!
CHA CHING
I USED TO WORK HERE MYSELF, ACTUALLY.

Ah
HASEGAWA -SAAAN!
HEY THERE, HAVEN'T SEEN YOU IN A WHILE.
Gasp
HEY ...
.....
I WAS IN THE NEIGHBOR-HOOD, SO I THOUGHT I'D DROP BY.
THE PRODI-GAL SON RETURNS
AND NOW I SEE THAT MATSU-MOTO-SAN IS HERE!
WE WENT TO THE SAME MIDDLE SCHOOL

IT'S MATSUSHITA, ISN'T IT?
OH IS THAT RIGHT?
I'M SORRY
IT'S OKAY
LET'S ALL HANG OUT SOME TIME.
SEE YOU GUYS LATER!
WELL
WELL, THAT WAS A NICE REUNION !!
MADE ME A LITTLE NERVOUS.
Ah hah hah hah hah
DAMN I'VE TURNED ALL RED AGAIN
I WONDER IF HASEGAWA-SAN NOTICED
HAH HAH
WHAT AM I MAKING EXCUSES FOR?
I
WHY SHOULD I?

I TOLD YOU HE'S GOT A GIRL-FRIEND
WEREN'T YOU GONNA GIVE UP ON HIM?
THOUGH I GUESS THAT'S WHY YOU STARTED WORKIN' HERE, HUH?
FOR HIM
UM.
I SORT OF—
DIDN'T LIKE THE SOUND OF THAT

TH-
IN FACT I REALLY DI
THAT WAS OVER
THE SECOND YOU TOLD ME HE HAD A GIRL-FRIEND!!
AND THAT'S THE TRUTH!!
HMM
WHAT ON EARTH AM I SAYING

ER
MATSU-SHITA.
HUH?
GET BACK TO WRAP-PING!!
Quit spacin out!!
Y-YES, SIR!
YET IN THE END, HE'S STILL SCARY.
I THINK THAT'S THE FIRST TIME
HE'S EVER SMILED AT ME LIKE THAT...
whoa
Although I've seen him smirk plenty of times

HUH?
IS SOMETHING WRONG, HASEGAWA-SAN?
WHY ARE YOU HERE?
I'M HEADING HOME NOW
Café Rapido
FLAP
THE COOL AMBIENCE OF A CAFÉ
PARDON
I GUESS IT DEPENDS WHAT KIND?
SO, DO YOU GO TO CONCERTS?
Yo!

Shojo Magic

WHO DID YOU. . HAVE TO KILL?
Is it okay to ask?
B-BMP
B-BMP
DI'YA WANT THAT TICKET OR NOT?
AREN'T THESE SUPPOSED TO BE NEARLY IMPOSSIBLE TO GET!?
YUP, AND I STILL GOT 'EM.
Heh heh heh
WOW! THAT'S TOO COOL!
WHOA!
THESE ARE COOL-BAND TICKETS!!
THE GUYS I NORMALLY HANG WITH AREN'T INTO COOL-BAND
WHO? ME?
IT'D BE A SHAME NOT TO USE IT, RIGHT?
ARE YOU SURE? REALLY!?
WHAT?
WHAT?
Don't they realize this is Cool Band?
THE CONCERT IS TOMORROW
WANNA COME WITH ME?
I BET THESE GUYS SOUND GREAT LIVE.
OHH ~~~~ ... I WANT ~~~~

WOOOW!
THANK YOU SO MUCH!
ALL RIGHT, WELL, SEE YOU IN FRONT OF THE CONCERT HALL TOMORROW.
OKAY!
THANKS AGAIN!
...
WOW
WAIT, MONEY!
I GUESS I CAN PAY HIM TOMORROW...
GASP
BUT EVEN WITH THAT,
ATTENDING A LIVE CONCERT TOGETHER
IS ALMOST LIKE GOING ON A DATE

Don't work inefficiently
THINKING THAT THAT HASEGAWA-SAN WOULD ASK ME OUT ON A DATE
IS JUST LUDICROUS
NO WAY!!
AM I THINKING OF THE SAME HASEGAWA-SAN!?
Sloth
Sloth
BLUSH
I'M
GOING TO HAVE TO TRY TO NOT BE CONSCIOUS OF HIM
BUT STILL
NO, SILLY TO THINK IT...
BECAUSE I'M BECOME TOO CONSCIOUS
I'M NOT GOING TO BE ABLE TO TALK TO HIM
MAIN HALL

Is that really a "good" thing?

LOOKS LIKE WE'RE JUST IN TIME.
Ah ...
NO! DON'T EVEN APOL-OGIZE!
SORRY THE SEATS'RE SO FAR BACK
AH, HERE.
O-31 AND 32 ARE
Sitting in the next seat over
feels really close ...
It's not in eye
WISH I'D HAD SOME-THING TO EAT BEFORE-HAND
WANNA GO GET SOME FOOD AFTER THIS?
S- SURE!
HIS VOICE IS SO CLOSE TO MY EAR

OH, GUESS IT'S STARTING.
DIM
WOOOW!
AAAHH!
WAAAAH
OH, NO!!
OHHH
HM?
OH, THANK GOD.
IT'S TOO DARK FOR HIM TO TELL.

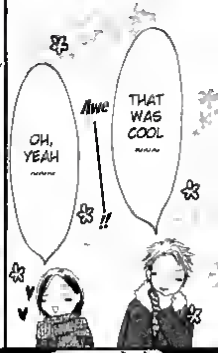
YEEEAH!
AAHH!
WOOOW!
HE CAN'T HEAR IT OVER THIS.
AND EVEN THOUGH MY HERAT IS POUNDING,

TO ITS HEART'S CONTENT
.....
I CAN BE NEXT TO HASEGAWA -SAN.
AND MY FACE CAN BE RED

WOOOW.

I GOT 'EM FOR FREE.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT
OH, WAIT!
I STILL NEED TO PAY YOU FOR THE TICKET!

YOU BOUGHT WAY TOO MANY SOUVENIRS
Whoa!
Lemmins
AND YOU DIDN'T!?


OH, YEAH ~~~
Awe
!!
THAT WAS COOL ~~~

APPARENTLY THE VOCALIST, KAZUKI, IS A W-HIGH GRAD
HE SEEMED LIKE HE WAS REALLY INTO THE BAND,
SO I THOUGHT FOR SURE HE'D BOUGHT THE TICKETS

YOU
DID?
YUP.

WOW
AND COME TO THINK OF IT, YOU KNOW WHO ELSE GOES TO W-HIGH? ISAKAMOTO-KUN

BUT IS THAT WHAT IT IS?
WOW, THEY'RE PRETTY LOCAL
NO KIDDIN'
Ha ha ha

Huh?
IS IT BECAUSE I MENTIONED SAKAMOTO-KUN?
WHA-
WHAT HAPPENED?
SILENCE
THAT CAN'T BE IT.....
Whatever, huh ...
THEN HOW ~~~ ABOUT ~~~ UM...
WH-
WHERE SHOULD WE GO TO EAT?
DON'T CARE... WHERE-VER.
TH-THAT CAN'T BE IT?

SAY,
DID YOU HAVE FUN TODAY?
HUH ___?
YEAH, I HAD LOTS OF FUN...?
HMM
BUT YOUR FACE DOSEN'T GET RED.
WHAT?
NOT WHEN YOU'RE WITH ME
IT'S DIFFERENT WHEN YOU'RE WITH SAKA-MOTO

AND I DON'T LIKE THAT...
WHAT?

NO!
SKOK
AH...

YOU'RE... SCARED OF ME, I GUESS.
SORRY
UM-
U-
I'LL GO HOME
I'M SORRY
AH!

Shoujo Magic

Hi all! We really hope you are enjoying this Valentine's Day special!! We picked two stories from the most recent Betsucomi! For those of you not familiar with Betsucomi it is a really great shoujo manga magazine! Hot Gimmick is published there ~!

Because this story was taken from a magazine there is no freetalk – as this space is usually used for ads!

If you liked this story please give thanks to those who worked on it as everyone had to work really fast in order to get this out in time!!

Happy Valentine's Day!!

Suana

I'LL GO BUS THE HALL...
Y-YEAH...
YOU OKAY WATCHING THE COUNTER ALONE?
"YOU'RE SCARED OF ME, I GUESS."

Ah, Hasegawa-kun, can I have a sec?
And even though it was different,
Maybe I was a little scared right then
For a different reason.
I did it again
So,
DID YOU CONFESS TO HIM YET?
NOT YET. VALENTINE'S DAY ISN'T UNTIL TMORROW
Can't I ever stop blushing and just raise my head?

YOU KNOW, IF YOU KEEP DRAGGING YOU FEET, SOMEONE ELSE WILL BEAT YOU TO HIM
AND ONCE HE'S BEEN TAKEN, IT'LL BE TOO LATE, WON'T IT?
IT WILL
BAM

BANG
I DON'T WANT THAT TO HAPPEN!

ｳﾑ
……
……ﾊｰ

I DON'T ... HAVE CHOCOLATE FOR YOU YET,
BUT I'LL GIVE SOME TO YOU LATER, SO-
I ALSO LIKE YOU, HASEGAWA-SAN!
SO ...
AM I...
TOO... LATE...?
Shoujo Magic

Shoujo Magic

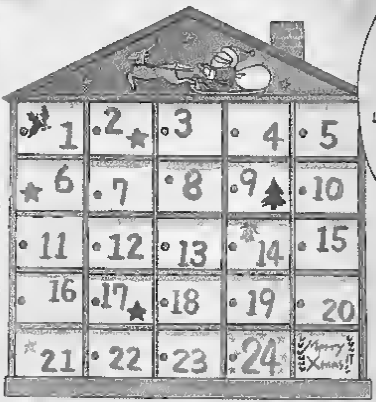
WHAT ARE THEY... TALKING ABOUT ...?
Slide
.....EH?
A SPECIAL CHOCOLATE
FOR YOU.

I HAD HER... DO THE WRAPPING FOR ME ... SINCE I COULDN'T DO IT.
THERE'D'VE BEEN NO MEANING TO IT IF YOU'D BEEN THE ONE TO WRAP IT...
IF I GAVE IT TO YOU, WOULD YOU BE HAPPY TO GET IT?
Rumble Rumble
I-

I'D BE VERY HAPPY ...
My apple cheeks
would turn an even deeper shade of red.

WELL
I GUESS THESE KINDS OF BACKWARDS VALENTINE'S JUST HAPPEN SOMETIMES, TOO.
END

24個のクリスマス



HOW MANY DAYS ARE LEFT UNTIL CHRISTMAS

I COUNTED THE DAYS UNTIL CHRISTMAS ON THE ADVENT CALENDAR.

- A CHILDHOOD MEMORY.

2
3
4
5
7
8
9
10
Merry
Xmas!
17
24個のクリスマス

A Willful Muse
TRANSLATOR: JULIE
ADD TRANSLATION: FOXGHOST
PROOFREADER: FAIRYSONG
CLEANER: NIGHTMAREPOISON
TYPESETTER: PERCH
ACQUIRER: LADYAQUITAINE

IN THE WINTER OF MY THIRD YEAR OF ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
MY FAMILY AND THAT OF MY FATHER'S FRIEND MET -
I MET A BOY NAMED IAN.
HERE
I'LL GIVE THIS CHOCOLATE TO YOU.
REALLY?
YAY!
THANK YOU!
HERE THAT GLEAMS LIKE LIGHT.
BLUE IRISES.
AND IAN HAD THE SMILE OF AN ANGEL.

I WONDER WHAT'S INSIDE!
THAT'S MINE!
EVEN IF I WANTED TO FORGET I WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO.
HE'D STEAL MY PRESENTS AND -
THAT WAS MY MEMORY OF CHRISTMAS.
HE'D EAT THE WHOLE CAKE AND...
THE WHOLE THING?!
THE REALITY WAS AN EVIL ILLUSION.
HEY NOW!
EWW!!! RIO ATE A COCKROACH!
いやあああ
IT'S JUST A RUBBER TOY!
PANIC
AND ON MY 17TH WINTER
Merry X'mas
Dear Rio

IS IT HANDMADE?
BUT, THIS IS QUITE DETAILED
.....
RIDICULOUS..
THAT EVENING, IAN MOVED TO ENGLAND,
BUT EVERY YEAR, HE CONSISTENTLY SENDS ME A CHRISTMAS CARD.
AND I DIDN'T GET TO SEE HIM THE TIMES HE VISITED JAPAN.
I CAN'T BE THE ONE WHO'S ALWAYS PLAYED A PRANK ON
I HAVE TO SEND HIM A WEIRD ONE.
KOU-CHAN THIS AND THIS.
WHICH IS GOOD?
ISN'T THIS FOR YOUR CHILDHOOD FRIEND?
RIIIOOO.
STILL NOT READY?

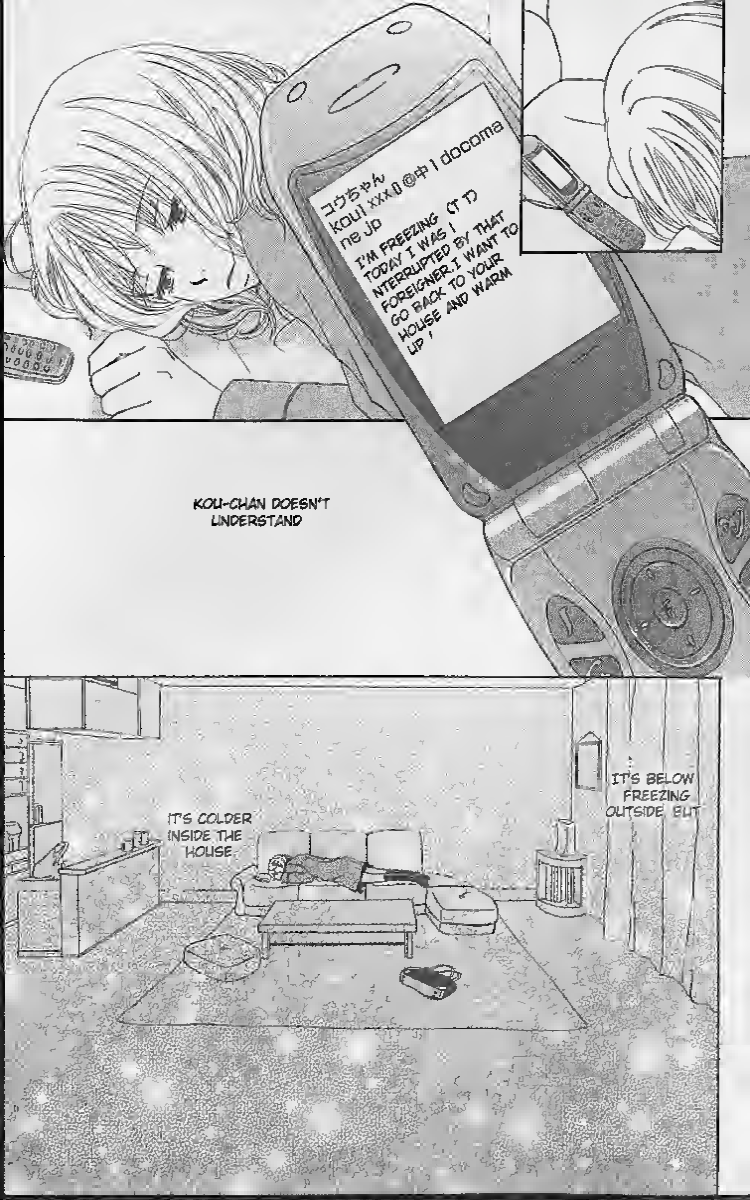
IT'S REALLY NICE AND RELAXING AT YOUR PLACE.
AND YOUR PARENTS AREN'T AROUND TO CARE.
.....
RATHER THAN DOING THAT, DO YOU WANT TO HURRY HOME TO YOUR PLACE AND SNUGGLE TOGETHER?
MM ISN'T IT OKAY?
WHERE ARE YOU TOUCHING?
DON'T!
I'M SAYING IT ISN'T!
WAI-!
THIS IS YOUR FAMILY'S STORE!

SANTA?!
HO HO HO!
KNOCKED OUT
MEWWY CHWISTMAAAAS
RIO!

PA-RT TI-ME..
DOES IT MATCH?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN THAT COSTUME?
IT'S BEEN A LOOOOONG TIIME!
SO IT WASN'T A GIANT...
!!
IAN?!
WHY ARE YOU TALKING LIKE THAT?
HUH?
YOU DIDN'T HEAR? AND I MOVED BACK LAST MONTH...
RATHER, WHEN DID YOU COME BACK?
HUH?
OH!
KOU-CHAN...
ANYWAY, WHAT SHOULD I DO ABOUT THAT PERVERT?
SHALL I CALL THE COPS?
I LOST INTEREST
I'M GOING TO GO HOME NOW
HUH?
SORRY...
WAS HE YOUR BOYFRIEND? SOWWY
ANYWAAAY, WHY DON'T YOU GO HOME NOW, TOO?
WON'T YOUR MAMA AND PAPA BE WORRIED ABOUT YOU?
WHAT IS HE DOING BACK?
NOT REALLY..
THEY'RE NOT REALLY WORRIED
AND THEY'RE NOT AROUND.

HUH?
THEY'RE IN NEW YORK FOR AN EXTENDED BUSINESS TRIP.
THE TWO OF THEM WON'T RETURN UNTIL NEW YEAR'S. THAT'S WHY I'M LIVING ALONE.
OH..
I SEE
WELL THEN,
GOOD LUCK WITH WORK.
OH, YEAH.
THANKS FOR THE CARD!
THAT'S MADE TO BE AN ADVENT CALENDAR, RIGHT?
I REMEMBERED THE ONE AT YOUR HOUSE.
IT'S AN IRRITATING MEMORY, BUT THAT CHRISTMAS...
WAS FUN, WASN'T IT? YOUR MOM AND DAD, AND MY PARENTS WERE ALL THERE AND...

LATER.


コウちゃん
KOU! xxx.ii@ezweb.ne.jp
I'M FREEZING :((TODAY I WAS INTERRUPTED BY THAT FOREIGNER, I WANT TO GO BACK TO YOUR HOUSE AND WARM UP !
KOU-CHAN DOESN'T UNDERSTAND
IT'S COLDER INSIDE THE HOUSE
IT'S BELOW FREEZING OUTSIDE ELI?

BREAKFAST IS READY! COME DOWN AND GET IT QUICKLY!
OKAAY!
WHAT THE HELL IS THIS?
FOR YOU
WHAT IS THIS LETTER?
IS THERE SOMETHING INSIDE?
THE NAME OF THE SENDER ISN'T WRITTEN
カサ…
おくりびと

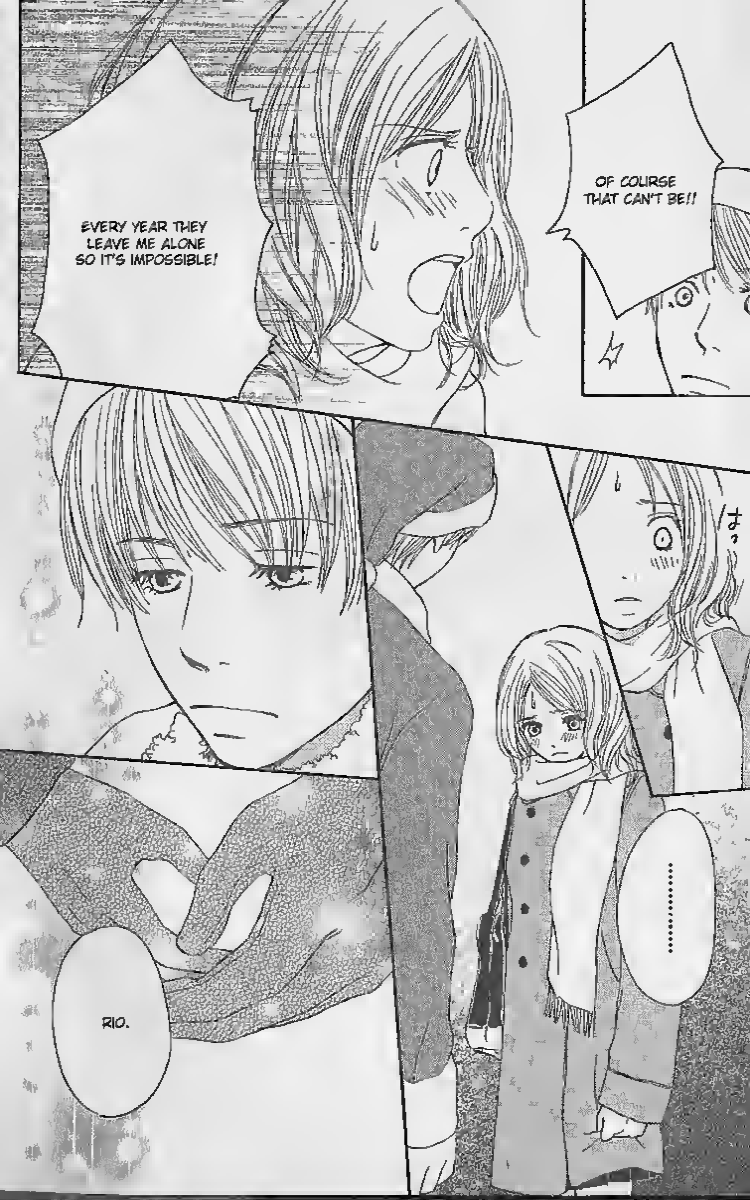
A SNOW MAN ..?
I GOT ONE THE NEXT DAY.
EVEN THE NEXT DAY.
THERE'S ONE AGAIN.
WHAT IS IT?
AGAIN?!
I RECEIVED ONE THE DAY AFTER, TOO.
THERE'S SOMEONE WHO WOULD DO THIS KIND OF THING BUT...
HAHA!!
AHAHA
GOOD MORNING WHAT ARE THOSE? ORNAMENTS?
HMMM.
RIGHT..

I GUESS I'LL TRY ASKING KOU-CHAN...
HE'S HERE!
AH, KOU-CHAN
...RIO'S
...PRETTY RELUCTANT
I THOUGHT YOU'D BE DOING IT AS OFTEN AS YOU WANTED SINCE SHE LIVES ALONE
SHE SURE FOOLED US, HUH?
RIGHT.

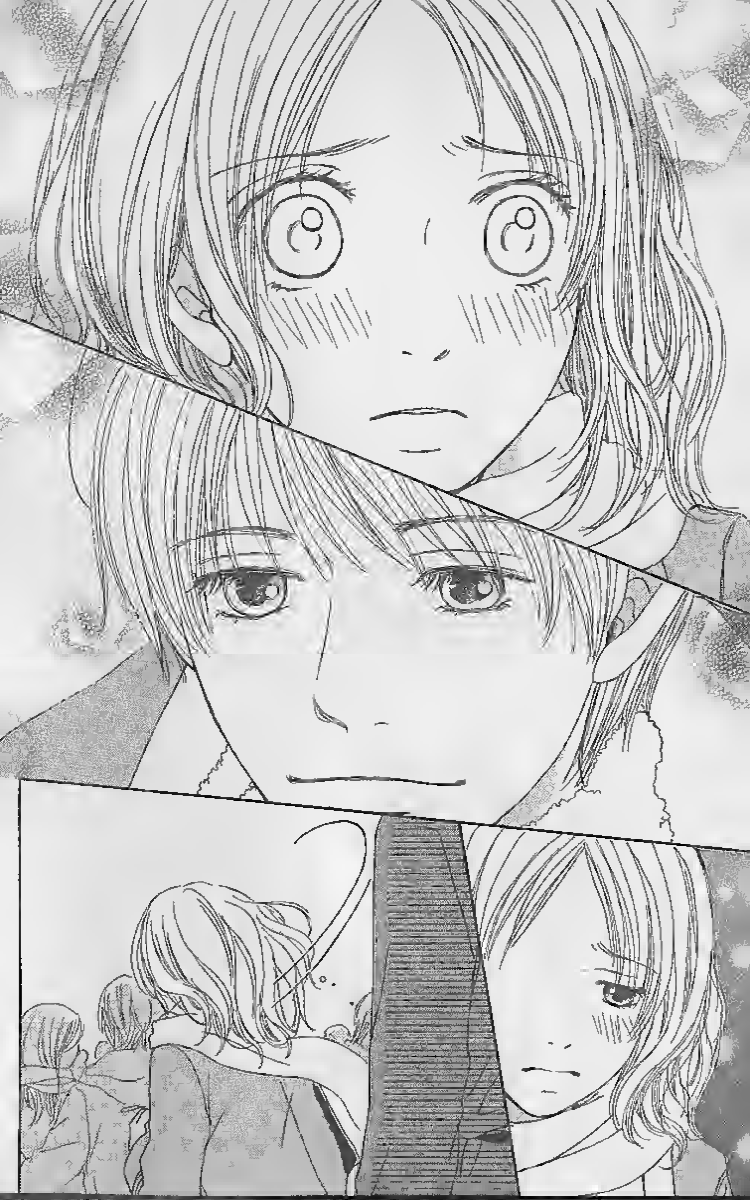
RI!
RIO!!
AH!
HEY!
AWW MAN
nnnnnnn

Happy Xmas
WHAT'S WITH THAT?

RIO!
Happy Xmas
WHA-...
WHAT COULD IT BEEEE?
AS I THOUGHT, IT WAS YOU.
WHY?
COULD THEY BE FROM YOUR BOY-FRIEND?
THEY'RE NOT!
THEN THEY'RE DEFINITELY FROM YOUR MOM AND DAD.
AFTER ALL, THE ONLY PERSON
WHO'D DO SOMETHING THIS POINTLESS IS YOU!
I'M RETURNING THEM


EVERY YEAR THEY LEAVE ME ALONE SO IT'S IMPOSSIBLE!
OF COURSE THAT CAN'T BE!!
よっ
.....
RIO.

DECEMBER 1ST,
2ND,
3RD,
FOR CERTAIN
UNTIL THE 24TH
ONE WILL COME EVERY DAY
SO EVEN IF YOU'RE BY YOURSELF, YOU WON'T FEEL ALONE



TODAY, I DIDN'T SPEAK ONCE WITH KOU-CHAN.
ピロロロ♪
……
KOU-CHAN
ガシャン
ピロロロ…
ピロロロ♪
COULDN'T?
WHY CAN YOU FIGURE OUT
SOMETHING THAT MOM, DAD, AND KOU-CHAN

WHO IS IT?
Y-
YES
IT'S A NUMBER I DON'T KNOW.
HUH? IT'S A GIRL? IS THIS NOT NAKATSUKA IAN?
HUH...?
FROM IAN'S PART-TIME JOB.
THAT CALL WAS
I THOUGHT YOU'D COME!
I GOT FIRED!
EXPLAIN HOW IT HAPPENED.
I'M SORRY
I BORROWED YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION FROM A GUY AT WORK

Xmas
ツリー。

買ってしまいました。

クリスマスのお話
描くたびに欲しくて
欲しくて…

けっこう大きいツリー
買ってしまいました。

今年も飾るのが
楽しみです。

I WAS BORN HERE
IT'S NOT STRANGE TO WANT TO LIVE AND WORK HERE, RIGHT?
BUT YOU'RE STILL A STUDENT...
IT'S THE SAME AS IF I WERE AN ADULT.
DAD WAS SUCCESSFUL THERE SO HE WANTS ME TO TAKE OVER AFTER HIM
...YOU OPPOSED, SO YOU LEFT?
HUH? BUT, WHERE DO YOU LIVE??
YEAH... I'M TEMPORARILY STAYING AT AN ACQUAINTANCE'S PALACE
I CAN'T REALLY SAY WHERE THOUGH
WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
TO LOOK FOR MY NEXT PART-TIME JOB
SORRY, TELL ME YOUR ADDRESS AGAIN, OKAY?
IF YOU HEAR FROM MY PARENTS, TRY TO FOOL THEM FOR A LITTLE WHILE!
.....

IAN!
IF YOU HAVE NO WHERE TO GO,
THEN COME TO MY PLACE!
OKAY?
I'D BE THANKFUL FOR THAT, BUT...
.....
YOU HAVE A BOYFRIEND, DON'T YOU?
I'M A BOY TOO, YOU KNOW?

WELL, ONCE I GET A JOB, I'LL CONTACT YOU AGAIN!
IT'S LIKE THAT, SO...
.....

WHERE HE WENT.
I WONDER
SEE YA LATER!
EVEN SO,
I COULD BE A LITTLE RELIEVED.
BECAUSE OF THE ORNAMENTS THAT COME EVERY DAY
HIS SMILE NEVER CHANGES.
WHO IS IT?
LOOKS LIKE I'VE COLLECTED A LOT..

IAN!
WHAT WERE YOU DOING?!
A PURIFYING BUDDHIST LIGHT?

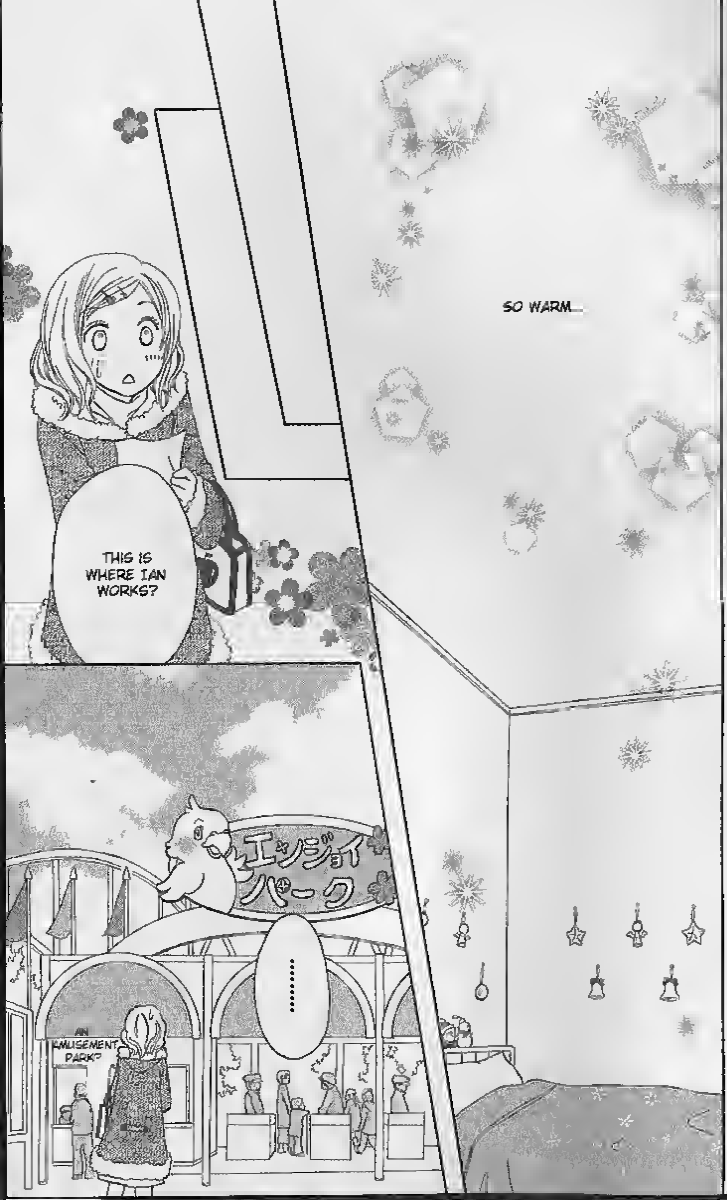
STUPID
I WAS SO INCREDIBLY WORRIED...
AH!
YES?
ORNAMENT!!
EVERY SINGLE DAY... ARE YOU SPENDING A LOT OF MONEY ON IT?
MAILING IS RIDICULOUSLY EXPENSIVE AND YOU DON'T EVEN HAVE MONEY

DID YOU FOOL HIM WELL?
Y-
YEAH .. BUT..
I GOT A CALL FROM MR. NAKATSUKA. HE'S WORRIED
ON TOP OF THAT...
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
HOW LONG ARE YOU GOING TO PLAY DUMB?
YOU'RE ALL EXPOSED
WHAT?
AH!
THE PART-TIME JOB ADDRESS IS HERE.
WELL,
I'LL DROP BY AGAIN LATER!
AH!
AH! QUESTION!
GEEZ...

I DON'T HAVE A TREE.
SINCE I HAVE THEM, I WANT TO DISPLAY THEM, BUT...
EVEN AFTER THAT
OH!
ORNAMENTS WOULD KEEP ARRIVING
YES
ALRIGHT.
AIRBNB 34 STREET

MIRACLE
30

EVEN IF YOU'RE BY YOURSELF, YOU WON'T FEEL ALONE.
SO THAT


SO WARM...
THIS IS WHERE IAN WORKS?
エンジョイパーク
.....
AN AMUSEMENT PARK?

AT AN AMUSEMENT PARK
YEAH. I SEEM TO LIKE WORKING AT PLACES THAT MAKE PEOPLE HAPPY.
I MIGHT BE AN ANGEL.
YOU SOMEHOW MATCH WORKING HERE...
OH, RIO!
HERE!
HUH? IS THIS ALRIGHT?
IT'S FINE IT'S FINE
WHY DON'T YOU COME WATCH?
WHAT?
WITH YOUR BOY-FRIEND.
WOW...
YEAH, THEY SAY THAT THIS PLACE IS SETTING OFF FIREWORKS ON CHRISTMAS EVE
X'mas Nights
12/24 25
WHAT'S THAT?
CHRISTMAS NIGHTS...?

YOU SEE... I HAVEN'T HEARD FROM KOU-CHAN IN A LONG TIME,
AND I HAVEN'T SEEN HIM SINCE BREAK.
OH..
.....
I THOUGHT IT WAS STRANGE FOR YOU TO COME TO A THEME PARK ALL LONELY DURING YOUR WINTER BREAK.
WHAT, SO YOU WERE DUMPED
WHA-?
Joy Park
WHA-?!
THAT'S WHY I CAME TO VISIT A LONELY BALLOON SELLING MERCHANT LIKE YOURSELF,
RIGHT?
WELL,
IT'S JUST PERFECT THEN.

THEN
WATCH THE FIREWORKS WITH ME
O-
OKAY...

カチーン
I'M STRANGELY NERVOUS.
イノ
50m
エノハ
IT CAN'T BE THAT THIS THING WITH IAN IS...
HEHE
GOOD WORKING WITH YOU!
WHAT? ARE YOU GOING ON A DATE?
ギュッ
ギュッ
WE'RE SUPPOSED TO MEET AT THE FRONT ENTRANCE,
BUT IT'LL BE IMPOSSIBLE LIKE THIS.
ギュッ
ギュッ
RIO!!

WHY NOW
ARE YOU REALLY GOING TO MEET WITH YOUR CHILDHOOD FOREIGN FRIEND?
I ASKED SOMEONE I KNOW, AND HE SAID YOU'D BE HERE.
KOU-CHAN?!
OF COURSE IT DOES!!
THAT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH YOU!
COME HERE!
KYAA!
RIO?!
IAN!

TALK!
YOU— DON'T GO STEALING PEOPLE'S GIRLFRIENDS!
THEN WHY DIDN'T YOU TAKE BETTER CARE OF HER?
WHEN RIO WAS WITH YOU,
SHE WAS LONELY ALL THE TIME!

HEY! WHAT'RE YOU DOING?
HOLD THEM!!
IAN!
KOU-CHAN!!
STOP IT!
CAUSING SUCH A RUCKUS ISN'T A JOKING MATTER!
I'M GOING TO HAVE YOU FIRED!!
HEY!
YOU'RE THE ONE WE RECENTLY HIRED, AREN'T YOU? BLONDIE!

KOU-CHAN
I WANT TO BREAK UP...
.....

...I GET IT.
RIO...
DON'T CRY.
IT'S CHRISTMAS.

IT'S GOOD FOR YOU TO BE HAPPY.

.....
DON'T KEEP STARING!!
キャー
YOU'RE MAKING ME KIND OF EMBARRASSED.
WHEN I WAS YOUNG, I THREW AWAY A TREE AND I DON'T HAVE ONE NOW...
BUT SINCE I GOT THOSE, I WANTED TO DECORATE WITH THEM...
AH! I PROPERLY BOUGHT YOU A THANK YOU PRESENT!
JUST WAIT A BIT, OKAY?
ｶﾀﾞ
ｶﾀﾞ
ｶﾀﾞ

HUH? WHAT? IT'S NOT COMING OUT
I-
IAN?!
RIO.
IS IT OKAY IF I KISS YOU?
!!
.....
OH? I CAN'T?
STUPID

THE NEXT MORNING.

WHEN I OPENED MY EYES

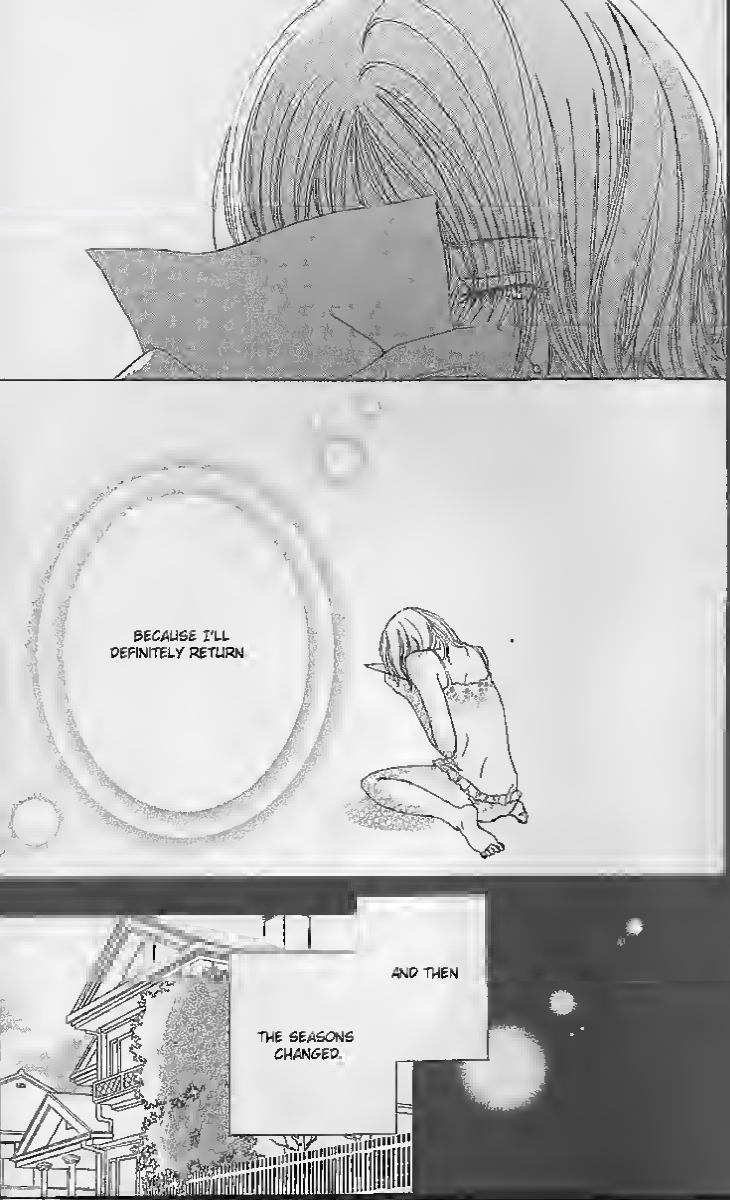
IAN HAD DISAPPEARED.

Dear Ria

I didn't buy the 24th gift.

Be a good girl and keep smiling. Because I'm definitely going to return to give you the 24th gift.

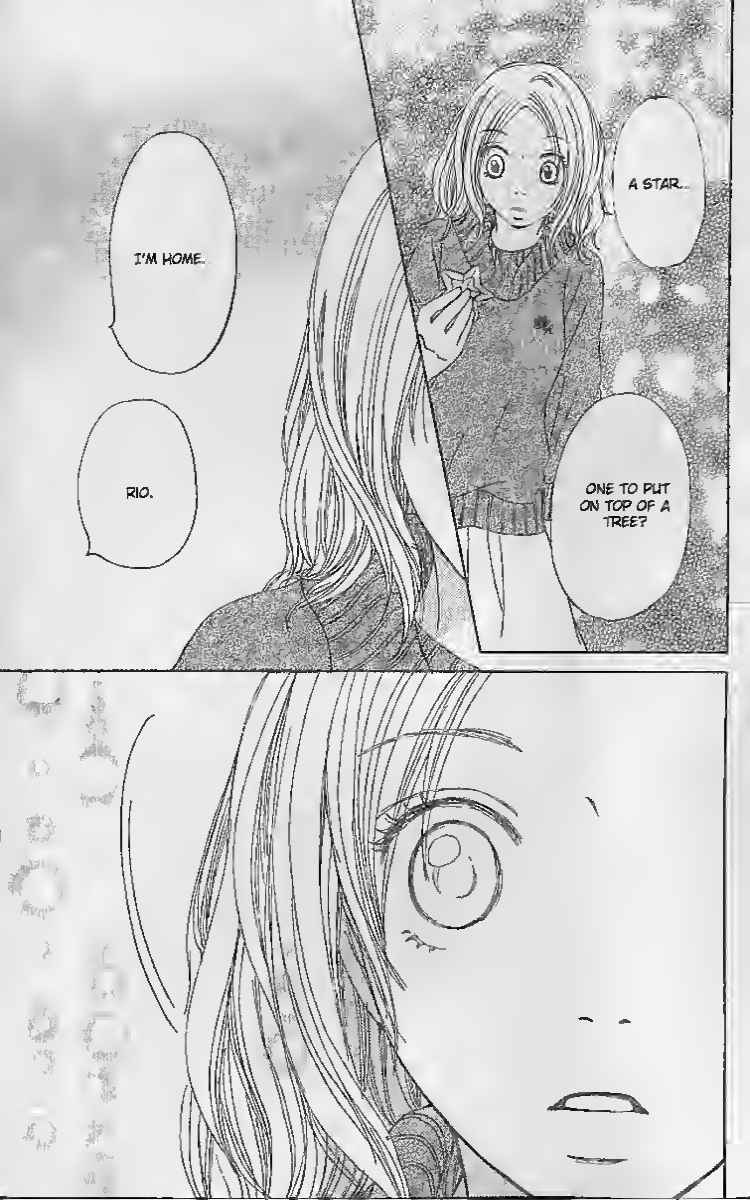
Until then, wait for me.


BECAUSE I'LL DEFINITELY RETURN
AND THEN
THE SEASONS CHANGED.

MY 18TH WINTER
OH...
SO IT STARTED SNOWING
RIO IT'S COLD. CLOSE THE DOOR
AT LONG LAST,
IT SMELLS LIKE SMOKE
KYAA! THE CHICKEN!
IT'S A FAMILY GATHERED CHRISTMAS.
MOM, DID SOMETHING COME IN THE MAIL FOR ME?
WHAT IS IT EVERY DAY?
NOTHING CAME FOR YOU TODAY
THIS YEAR EVEN THE CHRISTMAS CARD HASN'T COME YET.
HEARTLESS BEAST!!

SO THAT RIO WON'T BE LONELY.
STUPID.
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO'S MAKING ME FEEL THE MOST LONELY.
OKAAYYY.
RIO,
CAN YOU CHECK WHO IT IS?
GEEZ, HONEY.
COULD IT BE CAROLERS?
OH?
ピンポーン

THERE'S NO ONE HERE...
HUH?
YES?
THE 24TH GIFT?!


A STAR.
ONE TO PUT ON TOP OF A TREE?
I'M HOME.
RIO.

I'M THE 24TH GIFT.
ME!

〈24個のクリスマス〉＊おわり＊Betsucomi 2003年12月号に掲載

A Willful Muse

Thank you for reading our release!

ADD TRANSLATION: FOXGHOST
TRANSLATOR: JULIE
PROOFREADER: FAIRYSONG
CLEANER: NIGHTMAREPOISON
TYPESETTER: PERCH

AS ALWAYS PLEASE SUPPORT THE MANGAKA BY PURCHASING HER WORKS WHENTHEY BECOME AVAILABLE IN YOUR AREA!

FEEL FREE TO COME VISIT US AT OUR "SITE" OR FORUM!
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